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THE *Hiſtorical Catechiſm:*

OR, AN EXPLANATION OF THE Old and New Teſtament:

By Way of

Queſtions and *Anſwers.*

After a more Eaſy and Familiar Manner than any hitherto Extant.

Very Edifying and Profitable for Children to Learn before they begin to Read the BIBLE.

By a Reverend Divine of the Church of *ENGLAND.*

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THE

PREFACE.

Courteous Reader,

THere are divers Sorts of Catechiſms uttered, in order to Inſtruct Youth; but none ſo Comprehenſive as the Church Catechiſm, *the others being generally too Large amd Tedious for Children to Comprehend or Retain in their Memory. Wherefore I have taken due Care to Compoſe this* Hiſtorical Catechiſm; *containing* XXIX Chapters, *in as Pathetick, Plain, and Familiar Manner as poſſible, for the Benefit and Edification of Children, before they are put to Read the* Holy Scriptures, *whereby they may be well Vers'd before-hand, in the Meaning of what they Read therein. It is no leſs Neceſſary to be Learnt by Perſons of Maturity, in order to Cultivate their Minds for Underſtanding the Myſteries of God, and Inculcating the True Knowledge of Things pertaining to Salvation,*

so as never to be forgot. In short, I make no question, when this Small Catechistical Treatise *comes to be Perused by the Penetrating Judges of Things in this Nature, and truly Weighed and Considered, but they will Earnestly Embrace it as a Choice Jewell, it being every way Agreable with the Doctrine of the* Church *of* England. *I do therefore Recommend this Useful Piece to all Parents, to be Learnt by their Children in School or at Home, and to be Perused by Themselves for their own Instruction; and to decline such Catechisms as are Invented, and Industriously set forth by the* Enemies *of the* Church *Establish'd, to be Learnt in our Schools, to the Corruption, rather than the Edification of* Youth, *&c.* I am with all Sincerity,

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Your Faithful Instructor,

P. H.

AN

AN *Hiſtorical Catechiſm,* Fitted for Children, &c.

CHAP. I.

Of the Creation.

Q. WHO made the World?

A. God.

Q. Who is God.

A. God is the Creator of all Things.

Q. Are there many Gods?

A. No, there is but One God.

Q. Are there many Perſons in God?

A. Yes, in God there be Three Perſons.

Q. Which be they?

A. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghoſt.

Q. Of what did God make the World?

A. Of Nothing.

Q. How did he make it?

A. By his Word.

Q. Why did he make it?

A. To manifeſt his Glory, and for Man's Uſe and Benefit.

Q. What is Man?

A. He is a Rational Creature, compoſed of a Body and an Immortal Soul.

Q. Who made Man?

A. God.

Q. Of what did God make Man?

A. He made his Body of the Duſt of the Earth, and Created his Soul of Nothing.

Q. Why did God make Man?

A. To love and ſerve him in this World, and to enjoy him in the next.

Q. Who was the firſt Man?

A. *Adam*

Q. Who was the firſt Woman?

A. *Eve.*

Q. Of what did God make the Woman?

A. Of a Rib of *Adam.*

Q. Why ſo?

A. To ſhew that Man and Wife are of one Fleſh.

Q. Where did God place them when he had made them?

A. In Paradiſe.

Q. What was Paradiſe?

A. A Beautiful Garden.

Q. How did they live there?

A. They lived Happily.

Q. When were they to die?

A. If they had not ſinned, they had not died; but would have been tranſlated to Heaven without Dying.

Q. Did God create any Rational Creatures beſides Man and Woman.

A. Yes, he created the Angels?

Q. Who are the Angels?

A. They are Pure Spirits without Bodies.

Q. Why

Q. Why did God make the Angels?

A. To be partakers of his Glory, and to be our Guardians.

Q. Where did he place them when he had made them.

A. In Heaven.

Q. Do they all still keep their Station?

A. No, *Lucifer* and many with him sinned, and fell.

Q. By what Sin did they fall?

A. By the Sin of Pride.

Q. What became of those that sinned?

A. They were cast out of Heaven into Hell.

Q. What became of those that persevered in the Love of God?

A. They enjoy the Sight of God, and are Confirmed in Eternal Happiness.

CHAP II.

Of the Sin of the first Man.

Q. WHO tempted the first Man to Sin,

A. The Devil.

Q. Who is the Devil?

A. An Angel who sinned and fell from Heaven.

Q. How did the Devil tempt Man?

A. He enter'd into the Serpent, and perswaded the Woman to eat of the forbidden Fruit.

Q. What did the Woman do when she had eat of it?

A. She gave it her Husband to eat.

Q. And did he eat of it?

A. Yes.

Q. What befell them upon this?

A. Their Eyes were opened, and they were ashamed at their Nakedness.

Q. What did they hereupon?

A. They fled to hide themselves from the Sight of God.

Q. What did Almighty God upon this?

A. He punished them All, the Serpent, the Man, and the Woman.

Q. How did he punish the Serpent?

A. He laid his Curse upon it to Creep and to Feed upon the Earth.

Q. How did he punish the Woman?

A. He condemned her to be subject to her Husband, and to bring forth her Children in Pain.

Q. How did he punish the Man?

A. He condemned him to Labour, and to gain his Bread with the Sweat of his Brow; and at last to Death,

Q. Did he not make them some Promise of Comfort after this?

A. Yes, he promis'd them that the Seed of the Woman should Crush the Head of the Serpent.

Q. What means that?

A. It means that a Saviour of Man should come of her Seed, who should destroy the Power of the Devil.

Q. What was Man's Condition after this?

A. It was very miserable both in Soul and Body.

Q. How was it miserable in the Body?

A. In all sort of Misery, Sickness and Death,

Q. How was it miserable in the Soul?

A. In Ignorance and Concupiscence.

Q. What

Q. What, and where was *Sodom*?

A. It was a City in *Paleſtine*.

Q. Is it ſo ſtill?

A. No, that and four more were deſtroyed by Fire from Heaven.

Q. For what was it deſtroyed?

A. For the Sin of Luſt, and particularly for the Sin againſt Nature!

Q. When was it deſtroyed?

A. Whilſt *Lot* was yet living; but *Lot* and his Family were ſaved.

Q. How ſo?

A. God ſent an Angel to lead him and his Family out of it before it was deſtroyed.

Q. Well, who had *Abraham* for Wife.

A. *Sarah*.

Q. What Children had they?

A. But one Son, viz. *Iſaac*, whom God commanded *Abraham* to Sacrifice.

Q. And did *Abraham* Sacrifice him?

A. No, when all things were ready, and his Arm up to give the Blow, God ſent an Angel to prevent him.

Q. Why did God command this?

A. To try *Abraham*'s Faith and Obedience.

Q. What did he do when he had done this?

A. He renewed his Promiſe to *Abraham*, that he would bleſs him and all Nations in his Seed.

Q. In whom was this Promiſe fulfilled?

A. In *Iſaac* and his Children.

Q. What Children had *Iſaac*?

A. He had two, *viz. Jacob*, who was called *Iſrael*, and *Eſau* his Brother.

Q. What Children had *Jacob*?

A. He had Twelve Sons.

Q. What were they call'd?

A. The Twelve Patriarchs, from whom the *Hebrews* descended, and were call'd the Children of *Israel*.

CHAP. V.

Of the Slavery in Egypt, *and the* Passover.

Q. WHere did the Patriarchs live?

A. They liv'd in *Palestine*, till they were sent for into *Egypt* by their Brother *Joseph* and *Pharaoh* King of *Egypt*.

Q. What Country is *Palestine*?

A. It is a Country in *Asia*.

Q. What Country is *Egypt*?

A. It is a Country in *Africa*, on the Borders of *Palestine*.

Q. How came *Joseph* into *Egypt*?

A. He was sold to the *Ismalites*, who carried him thither.

Q. Who sold him to the *Ismalites*?

A. His Brothers, by the Advice of his Brother *Judas*.

Q. What was this a Figure of?

A. Of our Saviour Christ sold by *Judas* his Apostle.

Q. Why did *Joseph's* Brothers sell him?

A. Through Envy, because he was his Father's Favourite, and had accus'd them of a great Crime to their Father.

Q. How did *Joseph* live in *Egypt*, and how long?

A. He lived in *Egypt* a great while a Slave, but at last he came into *Pharaoh's* favour, and was

was made Governour of *Egpt*.

Q. How came his Brethren to find him there?

A. There being a Famine in *Paleſtine*, they came into *Egypt* for Proviſions, and ſo found him. *Gen.* c. 42.

Q. How did he receive them?

A. He Pardoned them their Injury, and made his Father, and them, and their Family come into *Egypt*, c. 45, 46.

Q. How did they live there;

A. They lived eaſily whilſt *Joſeph* and the King, that was then, liv'd; but after their Death, the ſucceeding Kings were Tyrannical to them, and endeavour'd to Deſtroy them, but God Succoured them. *Exod.* c. 1.

Q. How?

A. By ſending *Moſes* to deliver them. c. 2.

Q. How did *Moſes* deliver them?

A. By doing many Miracles, and afflicting *Egypt* with many Plagues, *Exod.* c. 7, 8, 9, 10.

Q. What was the laſt Plague with which *Egypt* was afflicted?

A. All the Firſt-born were Killed by an Angel. c. 11.

Q. Were any of the Firſt-born of *Iſrael* Killed?

A. No, God commanded a Sign to be made over their Doors, by which the Angel knew them, and paſs'd them, c. 12.

Q. What was that?

A. He commanded them to ſprinkle the two Poſts of their Door with the Blood of the *Paſchal* Lamb.

Q. When was this done?

A. The Night before they left *Egypt*,

Q. What was the *Paſchal* Lamb?

A.

A. It was a Lamb which God commanded the *Jews* to Eat the Night before they left *Egypt*, c. 12.

Q. What did the *Jews* call this Solemnity?

A. They called it the Paſſover.

Q. What was the Lamb a Figure of?

A. Of our Saviour Chriſt, who was to be Sacrificed for our Sins.

Q. What was the Deliverance out of *Egypt* a Figure of?

A. That we ſhould be one Day delivered from the Slavery of Sin.

CHAP. VI.

Of the Pilgrimage through the Deſert, and of the Written Law.

Q. WHither did the *Iſraelites* go when they left *Egypt*?

A. They went to *Paleſtine*.

Q. Who led them thither?

A. Almighty God by the Hand of *Moſes*.

Q. Why did God lead them thither?

A. To fulfill his Promiſes to their Forefathers.

Q. Which way did he lead them?

A. He led them to the Red-Sea, and through it. c. 13.

Q. How did they paſs the Red-Sea?

A. God commanded *Moſes* to ſtrike on the Sea with his Rod, and divided the Waters for them. c. 14.

Q. Which way did they go after this?

A. Through the Deſert of *Arabia Petræa*.

Q. How

Q. How long were they passing it?

A. Forty Years. *Numb.* c. 15.

Q. What did they live on?

A. On *Manna*, which Almighty God sent them from Heaven.

Q. What was this *Manna*?

A. It was Bread which God sent them *Exod.* c. 16.

Q. What was this *Manna* a Figure of?

A. Of the Blessed Euchanist.

Q. What Drink had they?

A. Water.

Q. Had they this always, did this never fail them?

A. Yes, it failed them twice, but God supplyed them by a Miracle.

Q. How did he this?

A. He Commanded *Moses* to strike upon a Rock, and water sprung out and supplyed them, *Exod.* c. 17.

Q. What was the Rock a Figure of?

A. Of Christ, whence Flow the waters of Eternal Life.

Q. Whither did they go from hence?

A. To *Mount Sinai.*

Q. What did Almighty God for them there?

A. He gave them the Law, *Exod.* c. 20.

Q. How did he Give it?

A. In Thunder and Lightning.

Q. Why did he give it in Thunder and Lightning?

A. To move us to a Faithful Observance of it.

Q. To whom did he give it?

A. To *Moses.*

Q. When did he give it?

A. On

A. On the Fiftieth Day after they came out of *Egypt*.

Q. What is this Law?

A. It is the Ten Commandments.

Q. Which are they?

A. I am the Lord thy God, &c.

1. *Thou ſhalt have none other Gods but me.*

2. *Thou ſhalt not make to thy ſelf any graven Image, nor the likeneſs of any thing that is in Heaven above, or in the Earth beneath, or in the Water under the Earth. Thou ſhalt not bow down to them, nor worſhip them. For I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, and viſit the ſins of the Fathers upon the Children unto the third and fourth Generation of them that hate me, and ſhew Mercy unto thouſands in them that love me, and keep my Commandments.*

3. *Thou ſhalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltleſs that taketh his Name in vain.*

4. *Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath-Day. Six days ſhalt thou labour*, &c.

5. *Honour thy Father and thy Mother, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.*

6. *Thou ſhalt do no Murder.*

7. *Thou ſhalt not commit Adultery.*

8. *Thou ſhalt not ſteal.*

9. *Thou ſhalt not bear falſe Witneſs againſt thy Neighbour.*

10. *Thou ſhalt not covet thy Neighbour's Houſe, thou ſhalt not covet thy Neighbour's Wife, nor his Servant, nor his Maid, nor his Ox, nor his Aſs, nor any thing that is his.*

Q. What

Q. What is the Substance of the Ten Commandments?

A. The love of God above all Things, and our Neighbour as our selves.

Q. How were these Commandments given, by word or writing?

A. They were written.

Q. How were they written?

A. In Two Tables of Stone. *Exod.* 31.

Q. Were they new Commandments?

A. No, they were only the Law of Nature explained.

CHAP. VII.

Of the Covenant of Almighty God with the Israelites.

Q. DID Almighty God give the *Israelites* any Laws besides these?

A. Yes, several.

Q. What were these?

A. For the most part these regarded the Ceremonies of Religion, teaching how the Sacrifices were to be offered, *&c.*

Q. What were these Sacrifices?

A. They were Sheep, Oxen, *&c.*

Q. How were these Sacrifices offered?

A. They were Killed first, and then Burnt upon the Altar.

Q. By whom?

A. By the *Levites.*

Q. Who offered the Sacrifices?

A. *Aaron* and his Children.

Q. Why

Q. Why did *Aaron* offer the Sacrifice only?

A. Because none must Execute the Prieſt's Office, but ſuch as are thereunto Called and Ordained.

Q. Who aſſiſted them?

A. The *Levites*.

Q. Who were the *Levites*?

A. All the reſt of the Tribe appointed for the Service of the Tabernacle.

Q. Where ſtood the Altar?

A. Before the Tabernacle. *Exod.* c. 30.

Q. What was the Tabernacle?

A. A Tent covered with Rich Stuff. *Ex.* 26.

Q. What was in the Tabernacle?

A. The Ark of Teſtimony. *Exod.* 31. 7.

Q. What was in this?

A. A Coffer covered with Gold.

Q. What was this? *Exod.* 25.

A. The Two Tables of the Law, the Manna, and the Rod of *Aaron*. *Exod.* c. 25. *Numb.* 17.

Q. Well, did Almighty God make any Covenant with the *Iſraelites*?

A. Yes.

Q. What was it?

A. The ſame which he made with *Abraham*.

Q. What was that?

A. That he would take them for his People, give them the Land of *Canaan*, and enrich them with all Temporal Bleſſings. *Deut.* c. 29. 30.

Q. What was the Land of *Canaan* a Figure of?

A. Of Heaven.

Q. What did the People promiſe on their ſide?

A. To

A. To love God with all their Heart, and to keep his Commandments.

Q. Under what Penalty were they obliged to observe this Covenant?

A. Under pain of being cast off by Almighty God, and afflicted with many Miseries.

Q. How did Almighty God perform this Covenant?

A. He performed it punctually, he brought and put them into Possession of the Land of *Canaan*, by doing many Miracles.

Q. What were those Miracles?

A. He divided the *Red Sea*, and the River *Jordan*; he stopt the Sun in his Course, *&c.*

Q. How did the People perform this Covenant?

A. They did not perform it, they Rebelled above ten times in the Desert; and after they came into *Canaan*, they often forsook Almighty God, and adored Idols.

Q. What was this Covenant a Figure of?

A. Of the New Covenant made in Baptism.

Q. Did they all arrive in *Canaan* who left *Egypt* and entred into this Covenant?

A. No, Two only, of above Six hundred thousand arrived there, viz. *Caleb* and *Joshua*.

Q. Why did not the rest arrive there?

A. Because they did not persevere in the Service of God, and keep the Covenant.

Q. What was this a Figure of?

A. That many who leave the Devil and Sin, do not gain Heaven for want of Perseverance.

CHAP. VIII.

Of the Idolotry of the reſt of the World.

Q. HOw was Almighty God worſhipped by the reſt of the world at this time?

A. He was not worſhipped by the reſt of World.

Q. What did the reſt of the World worſhip?

A. They worſhipped Idols. *Deut.* c. 29.

Q. What Idols did they worſhip?

A. The Idols of Men, Women, and all ſorts of Creatures.

Q. How did they call them?

A. Gods and Goddeſſes.

Q. How did they worſhip them?

A. By praying, and offering Sacrifices to them.

Q. How came the World into this Blindneſs?

A. They fell into it by Forgetfulneſs of Almighty God.

Q How came they thus to forget God?

A. By giving up their Thoughts to the Things of this World.

Q. What kept them in this Blindneſs?

A. The Devil whom they adored in the Idols.

Q. What was the effect of this Idolatry?

A. It brought them into all ſorts of Wickedneſs:

Q. How were the Idolaters called?

A. Gentiles or *Pagans.*

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

Of David and the Messiah.

Q. HOW were the *Israelites* governed after they came into the Land of *Canaan*?

A. They were governed first by Judges, and afterwards by Kings.

Q. Who were those Judges?

A. They were Men whom from time to time Almighty God raised up to govern *Israel*; as for Example, *Samson*, *Othoniel*, *Gideon*, &c.

Q. What was the State of *Israel*, during the Goverment of these Judges?

A. They were for the most part at War with those Nations whom the Almighty left unconquered at *Joshua*'s Death.

Q. Why did God leave those Enemies unconquered?

A. To punish them for Rebelling against him, *Judg.* c. 1. to try their Fedility to him, and to Instruct them how to Fight against their Enemy.

Q. What was this a Figure of?

A. This signifies that Almighty God often permits our Passions or other Enemies to remain unconquered, to Afflict us in Punishment of our Sins, to try our Fidelity, and to Instruct us how to resist Temptations.

Q. Who were the last Judges of *Israel*?

A. *Samuel*'s two Sons, 1 *Kings* c. 8.

Q. How long did these govern *Israel*?

A. They governed but a little while.

Q. Why so?

 A. Because

A. Becauſe the *Iſraelites* being not pleas'd with them, deſired a King, 1 *Kings* 8.

Q. And did God give them a King?

A. Yes.

Q. Who was their Firſt King?

A. *Saul.*

Q. Who was their Second?

A. *David.*

Q. Of what Tribe was *David?*

A. Of the Tribe of *Juda.*

Q. What did *David* do at his coming to be King?

A. He made it Buſineſs firſt to promote the Honour and Service of God.

Q. What did he particularly in this?

A. He brought back the Ark, and he would have built the Temple, but that Almighty God forbid him. 2 *Kings* 6. 7.

Q. Why did Almighty God forbid him?

A. Becauſe he had been guilty of Blood.

Q. Where did *David* ordinarily live?

A. On *Mount Sion* in the City of *Hieruſalem*, 2 *Kings* 5.

Q. Where did he place the Ark?

A. On the ſame *Mount.*

Q. How did he live?

A. He was a Man according to God's own Heart.

Q. What were his Chief Vertues?

A. Humility, Meekneſs and Patience.

Q. Did he not fall into ſome Sins?

A. Yes, but he ſincerely Repented, and Suffered with great Patience for them.

Q. Did Almighty God ſhew him any Marks of his Favour after this?

A. Yes, he made him great Promiſes.

A. What

Q. What were these?

A. That his Posterity should Reign for ever over the People of God, 2 *Kings* 7.

Q. What else?

A. That the Saviour of the World should come of his Seed.

Q. Who is the Saviour of the World?

A. Christ or the Messiah.

Q. Who is Christ?

A. He is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, who became Man to Redeem us.

Q. What signifies the Word *Christ*?

A. Anointed.

Q. Why is he called Anointed?

A. Because Kings, Priests and Prophets were Anointed.

Q. What are they Anointed with?

A. With holy Oil.

Q. What was our Saviour Anointed with?

A. With the Plentitude of Divine Grace.

Q. What signifies the Word *Messiah*?

A. Sent.

Q. By whom was he sent?

A. By the Eternal Father to Redeem us.

CHAP. X.

Of the Schism in Samaria.

Q. WHO succeeded *David*?

A. *Solomon* his Son.

Q. How did *Solomon* Reign?

A. In Peace, Plenty, and Pleasure.

Q. Did God give him nothing better?

A. Yes, besides this, he gave him Wisdom

to govern his People.

Q. What did *Solomon* do when he came to be King?

A. He built the Temple which *David* had designed.

Q. Where did he build it?

A. In *Hierusalem*.

Q. Was there any other Temple besides this!

A. No, there was but one Temple and one Altar.

Q. Why so?

A. To shew that there was but One God and One Religion.

Q. Did *Solomon* apply himself to the Service of God?

A. Yes; in the beginning of his Reign he was very Zealous, but afterward he was Corrupted by Women, and fell into Idolatry.

Q. How long did he live so?

A. It is uncertain whether he did so.

Q. Did God punish this Sin of *Solomon*?

A. Yes.

Q. How did Almighty God punish it?

A. By Dividing the Kingdom.

Q. By whom was the Kingdom divided?

A. By *Roboam* his Son, and *Jeroboam* his Servant, 2 *Kings* 12.

Q. How was it divided by these?

A. By *Roboam* Reigned over the Tribes of *Juda* and *Benjamin*, and *Jeroboam* over the other Ten.

Q. Why did Almighty God leave any of the Kingdom of *Roboam*?

A. For the sake of *David* his Servant 2 *Kings* c. 11. 12.

Q. Did

Q. Did God punish *Solomon* thus in his Lifetime?

A. No.

Q. Why did not God punish him in his Lifetime?

A. For the same Reason, *viz.* for the sake of *David* his Servant. 3 *Kings* 11.

Q. Well, how did *Jeroboam* serve God?

A. He did not serve God, but made a Schism.

Q. What is a Schism?

A. A Division in the Church.

Q. Cannot it be lawful to make Schism?

A. No, it cannot.

Q. What Sin is it to make a Schism?

A. A mortal Sin.

Q. Where was the True Church?

A. At *Jerusalem*.

Q. Where was the Schismatical Church?

A. In *Samaria* the Capital of *Israel*.

Q. Why did *Jeroboam* make this Schism?

A. He thought thereby to have Established himself upon the Throne of *Israel*, 3 *Kings* 12.

Q. But what was the Event of it?

A. Almighty God raised up *Abijah* the King of *Juda* against him, who Conquered him, and took great part of his Kingdom from him. 2 *Chron.* 13. 19.

CHAP. XI.

Of the Prophets.

WHO were the Prophets?

A. They were Holy Men full of the Holy Ghost, whom God raised from time to time to Preach to his People.

A. Why

Q. Why were they called Prophets?

A. Becauſe they foretold thinge to come.

Q. When were the moſt of theſe in *Iſrael*?

A. After the two Kingdoms were divided.

Q. Who were the great Prophets of theſe Times?

A. *Elijah* and *Eliſha*.

Q. Who was *Elijah*?

A. He was called *Elijah* the *Tiſhbite*.

Q. About what time did he live?

A. He lived in the Reign of *Ahab*, *Jehoſephat*, *Ahazias*, &c.

Q. What Miracles did he do?

A. He did many; he ſhut Heaven that it Rained not for Three Years; he multiplied the poor Widows Oyl and Meal; he brought Fire from Heaven which conſumed his Sacrifice; he obtained Rain by his Prayer: he Faſted forty Days and forty Nights without Eating or Drinking, with many others.

Q. When did he Die?

A. He did not die.

Q. What became of him then?

A. He was carried away alive into Paradiſe, where he is to remain till the coming of *Anti-Chriſt*, when he is to come and Preach againſt him.

Q. Who was the Chief Prophet after *Elijah*?

A. *Eliſeus* his Diſciple.

Q. How long did *Eliſeus* live after him?

A. He lived till the Reign of *Johas*.

Q. What Miracles did he do?

A. He did ſeveral: He cured *Naaman's* Leproſy; he made Iron ſwim; he ſtruck the *Syrian* Soldiers Blind, *&c.*

Q. What other Prophets were there in *Iſrael*?

A. There

A. There were *Isaiah*, *Jeremiah*, *Ezekiel*, *Daniel*, which are the 4 great Prophets, and with them the 12 leſſer Prophets, and ſeveral others, many of whoſe Writings are yet Extant in Holy Scripture.

Q. What did theſe prophets foretel?

A. Amongſt many other things, they foretold the entire Subverſion of the Kingdom of *Samaria*.

Q. What elſe did they foretel?

A. That *Jeruſalem* ſhould be deſtroyed and Re-eſtabliſhed again.

Q. Did they ſpeak of the Meſſias?

A. Yes, they deſcribed him, and foretold all that was to come concerning him.

Q. What elſe did they foretel?

A. They foretold that there ſhould be a New Covenant more Perfect than the Old, and that all the Nations of the Gentiles ſhould be Converted and Adore the True God.

Geneſis,	2 *Kings*,
Exodus,	1 *Chronicles*,
Leviticus,	2 *Chronicles*,
Numbers,	1 *Eſdras*,
Deuteronomy,	2 *Eſdras*,
Joſhua,	*The Book of Heſter*,
Judges,	*The Book of Job*,
Ruth,	*The Pſalms*,
1 *Samuel*,	*The Proverbs*,
2 *Samuel*,	*The Book of Eccleſiaſtes*,
1 *Kings*,	*The Songs of Solomon*,

Four greater prophets. 12 leſſer Prophets.

The reſt of the Books may be read for Example of Life, and Inſtruction of Manners, but not to Eſtabliſh any Doctrine.

All

All the Books of the *New Testament* as they are commonly Read are Canonical.

CHAP. XII.

Of the Captivity of Babylon.

Q. WELL, Did the Kings and People of *Israel* hear the Prophets that Preached to them?

A. No, on the contrary they persecuted them, and put many of them to Death.

Q. What did Almighty God upon this?

A. He waited their Conversion a great while, but at last they were Punished.

Q. How were they punished?

A. The Kingdom of *Samaria* was Destroyed, the Ten Tribes Dispersed, and the City of *Jerusalem* Ruined.

Q. Who did all this?

A. *Nebuchadnezzar* King of *Babylon*.

Q. Where is *Babylon*?

A. *Babylon* is a City in *Persia* on the River *Euphrates*.

Q. What did *Nebuchadnezzar* do with the people of *Jerusalem*?

A. He led them Captive to *Babylon*.

Q. What became of the True Religion at this time?

A. The *Jews* Preserved it in Captivity.

Q. What was the Religion in *Babylon*?

A. Nothing but Superstition and Idolatry.

Q. Who were the principal Persons whom *Nebuchadnezzar* carried into Captivity?

A. The

A. The King of *Iſrael*, the Prophet *Daniel*, and his Three Companions, *Ananias*, *Azarias*, and *Miſael*. *Dan.* c. 1.

Q. What did *Nebuchadnezzar* do with *Daniel*, and theſe Three with him?

A. They were committed to the Governour of the Eunuchs, to be kept and Inſtructed in the *Chaldaick* Tongue?

Q. How did they live here?

A. They were ordered to Eat of the King's Allowance.

Q. And did they Eat of the Kings Allowance?

A. No, it was not Lawful for the *Jews* to Eat of the Meats of the *Gentiles*.

Q. How did they live then?

A. They lived upon *Pulſe*.

Q. How did they live upon this?

A. They were better in Health, and looked better than the reſt who lived upon the King's Allowance.

Q. What does this Teach us?

A. That God gives his Bleſſing on Obedience to his Church.

Q. What became of them after this?

A. When they had been here the Time fixed by the King, they were brought before the King, and upon *Daniel*'s Telling and Interpreting *Nebuchadnezzar*'s Dream, *Daniel* was taken into the Palace, and made Prince of all the Provinces of *Babylon*, and at his Repueſt *Ananias*, *Azarias*, and *Miſael* were put into Offices, *Dan.* c. 2.

Q. How long did they continue in this Favour?

A. Till they refuſed to Adore *Nebuchadnezzar*'s Statue.

Q. What

Q. What was done with them then?

A. *Ananias*, *Azarias* and *Miſael*, were caſt into the Fiery Furnace, and *Daniel* into the Lions Den. *Dan.* c. 3.

Q. What became of them there?

A. Almighty God ſent an Angel to preſerve them.

Q. What was theſe a Figure of?

A. Of a Soul in Temptarion, preſerved by the Grace of God.

CHAP. XIII.

Of the State of the Jews *in Captivity.*

Q. HOW long were the *Iſraelites* in Captivity in *Babylon*?

A. Till *Cyrus* King of *Perſia* delivered them, as the Prophets had foretold of him. 1 *Eſdras* c. 1.

Q. Did all the Jews return to *Jeruſalem*?

A. No, many remained diſperſed among the Gentiles.

Q. How did thoſe live among the Gentiles;

A. They lived generally well up to their Religion after this.

Q. Did not they fall into Idolatry after this?

A. No they ſcarce ever fell into it after this.

Q. Did the Gentiles reap any Benefit by this?

A. Yes, many came thereby to the Knowledge of the True God.

Q. How did thoſe ſucceed who returned into *Paleſtine*?

A. They lived quietly for ſome time, but afterwards were Perſecuted for their Religion.

Q. By whom? A. By

A. By *Antiochus*, King of *Syria*, a *Grecian* by Birth, and Succeſſor to *Alexander* the Great.

Q. How did *Antiochus* Perſecute them?

A. He Took *Jeruſalem*, Plundered and prophaned their Temple, prohibited the Exerciſe of their Religion, Introduced Idolatry and put all to Death who refuſed to Obey him, 1 *Macab.* c. 1.

Q. Did any of the Jews Obey him, and Sacrifice?

A. Yes, many did, but many alſo Refuſed, and ſuffered Death.

Q. How long did this Perſecution continue?

A. Till they were delivered by the *Machabees*, who governed them from that time till they were Conquered next.

Q. By whom were they Conquered next?

A. By the *Romans*.

CHAP. XIV.

Of *the Carnal and Spiritual* Jews.

Q. WHO was made King of the *Jews* by the *Romans*?

A. *Herod*.

Q. Who was *Herod*?

A. He was by Birth an *Idumean*.

Q. What Religion was he of?

A. He was a *Jew*.

Q. What had the Prophets foretold ſhould come, when the Government ſhould be thus tranſlated from the *Jews*?

A. They had foretold that our Saviour ſhould come.

Q. Did the *Jews* obſerve this, and expect our Saviour at this time?

A. Yes,

A. Yes, many did, but many also did not.

Q. Who were those that did expect him now.

A. Those that served God truly, and sought after another Life, or the spiritual or true *Israelites*.

Q. Who were those that did expect him?

A. The Carnal *Jews*, or those who affected nothing but the Things of this World.

Q. Did they not both expect the *Messias*?

A. Yes, but after a different manner.

Q. What was that?

A. The Carnal *Jews* expected he would Reign in Grandeur upon the Earth, and subject all Nations to the *Jews*.

Q. How did the Spiritual *Jews* expect him?

A. They looked for him to come as he did, and hoped to obtain that Grace thro' his Merits which was necessary to know, and love, and serve God, as they ought to do.

CHAP. XV.

Of the Incarnation and Birth of our Saviour,

Q. WHO is our Saviour?

A. Our Saviour is the Eternal Son of God, second Person of the Blessed Trinity, who was made Man to redeem us,

Q. Where was he made Man?

A. In the Womb of the Blessed Virgin *Mary*.

Q. How was he made Man?

A. He was conceived and made Man by the Vertue and Power of the Holy Ghost.

Q. Is our Saviour both God and Man?

A. Ye

A. Yes, He is both True God and True Man.

Q. When did our Saviour become Man?

A. At the time which the Prophets had foretold.

Q. When was that?

A. When the Scepter was tranſlated from the *Jews* to the *Romans*.

Q. Who was King of the *Jews* when our Saviour became Man?

A. *Herod*.

Q. Who was *Roman Emperor*?

A. *Octavius Auguſtus*.

Q. Of whom was our Saviour Born?

A. Of the Bleſſed Virgin *Mary*?

Q. Who was the Bleſſed Virgin *Mary*?

A. She was a Holy Virgin of *Nazareth* in *Galilee* in *Paleſtine*. St. *Luke* 1.

Q. What Tribe was ſhe of?

A. She was of the Noble Tribe of *Juda*.

Q. And of what Family?

A. Of the Royal Family of *David*.

Q. Of what Subſtance was ſhe in the World, Rich or Poor?

A. She was Poor.

Q. When our Saviour was made Man in her Womb, was ſhe admoniſhed of it before-hand?

A. Yes, Almighty God ſent the Angel *Gabriel* to acquaint her with it.

Q. Did ſhe give her Conſent to it?

A. Yes, after the Angel had aſſured her ſhe ſhould remain a Virgin, ſhe conſented to it. St. *Luke* c. 1.

Q. Well, when was our Saviour Born?

A. At *Chriſtmas*.

Q. Where was he Born?

A. At *Bethlehem*, in a Poor Stable. St. *Luke* Chap 2.

Q. Where is *Bethlehem*?

A. It is a little Town, about Miles from *Jeruſalem.*

Q. What followed our Saviour's Birth?

A. Some of both Jews and Gentiles came to adore him.

Q. Who came firſt to Adore him?

A. The Jews.

Q. Who of the Jews came firſt to Adore him?

A. The Shepherds. St. *Luke* c. 2.

Q. When did the Shepherds come to Adore him?

A. The ſame Night he was Born. St. *Luke* Chap 2.

Q. How came they to know it ſo ſoon?

A. They were acquainted of it by an Angel, who gave them a Sign how they ſhould find him, ſaying, *Behold I bring good Tidings of great Joy, that ſhall be to all the People; becauſe this day is Born to you a Saviour, which is Chriſt our Lord, in the City of David, and this ſhall be a Sign to you, you ſhall find the Infant in ſwadling Cloaths, and lying in a Manger.*

Q. Where were the Shepherds when the Angel acquainted them with this?

A. They were watching their Flocks.

Q. Who were the firſt Gentiles who Adored our Saviour?

A. The Wiſe Men from the *Eaſt.* S. *Mat.* c. 2.

Q. When came they to Adore him?

A. The Twelfth-day after his Birth.

Q. How did they find him?

A. They were lead by a Star which appeared

ed to them in the *East* and went before them, till it came over the Place were our Saviour was *Mat.* 2.

Q. Was this known at *Jerusalem*?

A. Yes, these Wise Men came to Jerusalem, and enquired of *Herod* where the King of the *Jews* was Born.

Q. What did *Herod* upon this?

A Herod and all *Jerusalem* were much Alarmed, and some time after he caused all the Children about *Bethlehem*, from Two Years old and under, to be Murdered.

Q. How did our Blessed Saviour Escape this?

A. He was carried by Joseph with his Blessed Mother into *Egypt*, where he staid some time.

Q. How long?

A. Till God called him thence by an Angel.

Q. When was that?

A. When *Herod* was dead, and *Archelus* succeeded in the Kingdom.

Q. Whither did our Saviour go at his Return;

A. To *Nazareth*, where he lived till he was about Thirty Years of Age, subject to our Blessed Virgin and *Joseph*.

Q. Who was *Joseph*?

A. Joseph was he to whom the virgin *Mary* was Espoused, but knew her not. *Mat.* 1. 18.

Q. Of what Tribe and Family was *Joseph*?

A. He was of the same Tribe and Family as the Blessed Virgin.

Q. What Employment was he of?

A. He was a Carpenter.

CHAP. XVI.

Of St. John Baptiſt, *and our Saviour's Baptiſm.*

Q. WHat did our Saviour do after he had lived thus thirty Years with our Bleſſed Virgin and Joſeph?

A. He began to Preach. St. *Math.* 4.

Q. Did any one come before Him to prepare his way?

A. Yes, St. *John Baptiſt.*

Q. Who was St. *John Baptiſt?*

A. He was the Son of *Zachary* and *Elizabeth.* St. Luke 1.

Q. Where did he live?

A. He lived thirty Years in the Deſert.

Q. Did the Prophets make any mention of him?

A. Yes, they called him the Precurſor or fore runner of Chriſt.

Q. What did they mean by that?

A. They meant one who was to come before and prepare the way for our Saviour.

Q. Where did he begin to Preach firſt?

A. In the Deſert of *Judea.*

Q. What did he Preach?

A. Repentance and the Coming of our Saviour.

Q. Why was he called *John* the *Baptiſt?*

A. Becauſe he Baptized all that came to him and were Converted, in *Jordan.*

Q. Did his Baptiſm remit Sin?

A. No. St. *Luke* 1.

Q. Why

Q. Why did he Baptize them?

A. To prepare them for the Baptiſm of our Saviour, which did.

Q. Did he not Baptize our Saviour?

A. Yes.

Q. Why did he Baptize our Saviour?

A. Becauſe our Saviour commanded him to do it.

Q. Why would our Saviour be Baptized?

A. To ſanctify the Waters of Baptiſm.

Q. Where was our Saviour baptized?

A. In *Jordan.*

Q. What happened at our Saviour's Baptiſm?

A. The Holy Ghoſt deſcended upon him in the Form of a Dove, the Heavens opened, and a Voice was heard, ſaying; *This is my Beloved Son in whom I am well pleaſed.* S. Mat. 3.

Q. What elſe?

A. S^t. *John the Baptiſt* pointed out our Saviour to his Diſciples, ſaying, *Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who taketh away the Sins of the World.* St. John 1.

CHAP. XVII.

Of our Saviour's retiring into the Deſert, and Calling his Apoſtles.

Q. WHat did our Saviour do after he was baptized?

A. He retired immediately into the Deſert. St. *Mat.* 4.

Q. What did he there?

A. He Faſted forty Days.

Q. What elſe?

A. He

A. He ſuffered the Devil to tempt him ſeveral ways.

Q. Why would our Saviour ſuffer the Devil to Tempt him?

A. To teach us how to bear, and how to overcome Temptations.

Q. Whither did he return out of the Deſert?

A. He returned into *Galilee*, and dwelt in *Capernaum*, fulfilling the Propheſy. *Iſa.* 9. 1.

Q. What did he firſt there?

A. He called four Fiſhermen to follow him, *Andrew* and *Simon* his Brother, and the two Sons of *Zebedee*, *James* and *John*: and after this *Matthew* the Publican, and others.

Q. How did he call them?

A. He ſaid, *Follow me*; and forthwith they left All and followed him.

Q. What were they called who followed him?

A. They were called his Diſciples.

Q. Had he many Diſciples?

A. Yes.

Q. What were they called whom he Choſe out of theſe, and ſent to Preach to the World?

A. They were called his Apoſtles.

Q. How many Apoſtles did he chooſe?

A. Twelve.

Q. Who were they?

A. St. *Peter* and St. *Andrew* his Brother. The two Sons of *Zebedee*, St. *James* and St. *John*, St. *Philip*, St. *Bartholomew*, St. *Matthew*, St. *Thomas*, St. *James* and *Jude*, the Sons of *Alpheus*, St. *Simon* Zealous, and *Judas* Iſcariot that betrayed him.

Q. Why were they called Apoſtles?

A. Becauſe they were ſent to Preach, and to Forgive or Retain Sins, according to the Commiſſions given them.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVIII.

Of our Saviours Preaching.

Q. WHat did our Saviour do after he had called his Apoſtles?

A. He went from place to place Preaching the Goſpel. St. *Mat.* 4.

Q. What is that?

A. The Knowledge of God.

Q. What did he preach of himſelf?

A. He preached, That he was Chriſt, the Son of God, whom they expected, and that they muſt believe in him, and repent.

Q. Why did he preach Repentance?

A. That they might obtain Pardon of their Sins.

Q. Did he bring any Proofs of his Doctrine?

A. Yes, he did many Miracles.

Q. What Miracles did he do?

A. He cured the Sick, diſpoſſeſs'd many of the Devil, Raiſed the Dead, *&c.*

Q. Did he teach by Example as well as by Word?

A. Yes, He began *firſt to Do and then to Teach.* Acts 1.

Q. What Vertues principally did he give us Example of?

A. He gave example of all Vertue, but principally, of Humility, Sweetneſs, Compaſſion, Goodneſs, and Zeal for our own and our Neighbour's Soul.

Q. Did he recommend any Vertue in particular to us?

A. Yes,

A. Yes, he bid us learn of him Humility and Meekneſs of Heart.

Q. What was our Saviour's principal Intention in all his Actions?

A. To Glorify his Eternal Father, and to do his Will in all Things.

Q. Did our Saviour pray much?

A. Yes, He ſometimes ſpent whole Nights in Prayer.

Q. Did he teach his Diſciples to pray?

A. Yes.

Q. What Prayer did he teach them?

A. What we Chriſtians call the *Lord's Prayer.*

Q. Canſt ſay the *Lord's Prayer?*

A. Our Father, &c.

CHAP. XIX.

Of the Enemies of our Saviour.

Q. DID many follow our Saviour?

A. Yes.

Q. Did not many Enemies oppoſe him too?

A. Yes, the Carnal Jews were Enemies to him.

Q. Why were they his Enemies?

A. Becauſe he Preached Humility, Poverty, Repentance, *&c.*

Q. Who among theſe were his greateſt Enemies?

A. The Scribes and Phariſees; the Prieſts and Senators.

Q. Who were the Scribes?

A. The Doctors of the Law.

Q. Who were the Phariſees?

A. The

A. The Phariſees were certain People, who pretended to a ſtrict obſervance of the Law, but were for the moſt part Hypocrites.

Q. To what degree did theſe hate our Saviour?

A. They hated him to that degree as to reſolve upon his Death, and to ſeek it.

Q. And did they compaſs it?

A. Yes, they wrought upon one of his Apoſtles to betray him.

Q. Who was that?

A. *Judas* Iſcariot.

Q. What did he betray Him for?

A. Thirty Pieces of Silver.

CHAP. XX.

Of our Saviour's Paſſion.

Q. WHen did the *Jews* Conſpire the Death of our Saviour?

A. About the time of the Paſſover.

Q. What was the Paſſover?

A. It was a Solemnity which the Jews Celebrated once a Year in Memory of their Deliverance in and out of *Egypt*. St. *Luke* 22.

Q. How did they Celebrate it?

A. By Sacrificing and Eating a Lamb, which was called the Paſcal Lamb.

Q. What was the Lamb a figure of?

A. It was a Figure of our Bleſſed Saviour, whom we were to Receive in the Bleſſed Euchariſt.

Q. Did our Bleſſed Saviour Eat the Paſchal Lamb before he was taken by the Jews?

A. Yes,

A. Yes.

Q. When did he Eat it?

A. On *Thursday* before *Easter-Sunday.*

Q. Who were with Him when he Eat it?

A. His Twelve Apostles.

Q. Was any body else with him?

A. No. Sr. *Luke* 22.

Q. What time of the Day did he Eat it?

A. He Eat it at Night, and therefore it is called his *Last Supper.*

Q. Where did he Eat it?

A. In *Jerusalem.*

Q. What did he do after he had Eat it?

A. He Instituted the Sacrament of the Blessed Eucharist or Lords Supper.

Q. How did our Saviour Institute it?

A. He took *Bread*, and when he had given Thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his Disciples, saying, *Take eat, This is my Body which is given for you: Do this in Remembrance of me.* Likewise after Supper, he took the *Cup*, and when he had gsven Thanks, he gave it to them, saying, *Drink ye all of this, for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many for the Remission of Sins: Do this*, as oft as ye shall drink it, *in Remembrance of me.*

Q. Whether did he go after this?

A. He went with his Apostles to the Garden of *Gethsemani* on Mount *Olives*, where he was used to Pray.

Q. What said he to his Apostles when he was come thither?

A. He said unto them, *Pray lest ye enter into Temptation.*

Q. What did he himself when he was come thither?

A. Taking

A. Taking three of his Apoſtles with him, he went about a Stones caſt from them to pray.

Q. What Prayer did he make?

A. Kneeling he Prayed, ſaying, *Father, if thou be willing to remove this Cup from me; but yet not my will, but thine be done. St.* Luke cap. 22. ver. 42.

Q. What did his Apoſtles do whilſt he pray'd?

A. They Slept.

Q. What ſaid he to them upon this?

A. He gently reprehended them twice, ſaying, *Cannot ye watch one Hour with me?* But the third time with ſomewhat of ſharpneſs, he ſaid to them, *Why Sleep ye, ariſe, Pray, leſt you enter into Temptation*; and as he was ſpeaking, *Judas* came with the *Jews* to take him.

Q. How did *Judas* come to him?

A. He ſaluted him as uſually, ſaying, *Hail Rabbi*, and kiſs'd him.

Q. How did our Saviour Receive him?

A. He received him with great Sweetneſs, ſaying, *Friend, for what art thou come? St.* Mat. cap. 26.

Q. How did the *Jews* come to take him?

A. Tumultuouſly and Armed.

Q. Whither did they carry him when they had taken him?

A. To *Caiphas* the High-Prieſt.

Q. What did the Apoſtles do when our Saviour was taken?

A. They all fled. St. *Mark c.* 14.

Q. What did St. *Peter* do when he was Accuſed to belong to him?

A. He denied him thrice.

Q. What did St. *Peter* do when he reflected on what he had done?

A. He went forth and wept bitterly.

Q. Whither did they carry our Saviour from *Caiphas?*

A. To *Pilate* the Roman Governour of the Jews.

Q. What did *Pilate* do with our Saviour?

A. He delivered him to the Jews to be put to Death.

CHAP. XXI.

Of our Saviours Death.

Q. WHat death did the Jews put our Saviour to?

A. He was Crucifyed between Two Thieves, which was the moſt diſgraceful Puniſhment of thoſe times.

Q. When was our Saviour Crucifyed?

A. On the *Fryday* after he was taken, which we call *Good Fryday.*

Q. Where was he Crucifyed?

A. On Mount *Calvary* near *Jeruſalem.*

Q. Who of his Friends were preſent when he was Crucifyed?

A. The Bleſſed Virgin his Mother, St. *John* the Evangeliſt; with more devout Women who followed him.

Q. How long did our Saviour live on the Croſs?

A. Three Hours.

Q. How did he die at laſt?

A. He voluntarily gave up his Soul, ſaying, *Father into thy hands I commend my Spirit.*

Q. Why did he ſay this?

A. To

A. To ſhew he died voluntarily for us, and to teach us how to commend our ſelves into his Hands at our Death?

Q. Where there any extraordinary Sign at his Death?

A. Yes, the Sun was totally Eclipſed, the Earth Trembled, the Dead Roſe from their Graves, the Veil of the Sanctuary was ſplit in two.

Q. Why was the Veil of the Sanctuary ſplit?

A. To ſignify that the Figures of the Old Law were now all fulfilled, and the Myſteries unveiled in our Saviours Life and Death.

Q. What did our Saviour's Death avail us?

A. It was a Sacrifice for us, that ſatisfyed the Divine Juſtice for our Sins, and for the Sins of all the World.

Q. How was it a Sacrifice for us?

A. Becauſe he offered himſelf up to his Eternal Father for us, when he died upon the Croſs.

Q. What were all the Sacrifices of the old Law?

A. They were Figures of this Sacrifice.

CHAP. XXII.

Of our Saviours Deſcent into Hell: Of his Reſurrection and Aſcenſion: Of the Diſciples return to Jeruſalem.

Q. HOW long did our Saviours Body remain on the Croſs after he was Dead?

A. Not long, for as ſoon as he was dead, *Joſeph* of *Arimathea* having leave from *Pilate*, came and took down our Saviours Body, and together with *Nicodemus* and the holy Women, Embalm'd it, and laid it in a New Sepulchre.

Q. Where was this Sepulchre?

A. In a Garden on Mount *Calvary*, hard by the place where he was Crucifyed. St. *John* c. 19.

Q. Why wou'd he be laid in a new Sepulchre?

A. To teach us to receive him into a Soul clean from ſin.

Q. What did the Jews after he was buried?

A. They placed Guards at the Mouth of the Sepulchre, and *Pilate* ſealed it up.

Q. How long did our Saviour lie in the Sepulchre?

A. He lay part of *Friday*, all *Saturday*, and Roſe again from the Dead the Third Day, which was *Sunday*.

Q. Was our Saviour's Soul in his Body all this time?

A. No, when he died his Soul was ſeparaten from his Body.

Q. Whether did his Soul go when it was ſeparated from his Body?

A. It deſcended into Hell.

Q. When did he riſe again?

A. The Third Day, when he united his Soul again to his Body, and roſe from the Dead.

Q. Were there any Signs ſeen at his Reſurrection?

A. Yes, the Earth trembled, the Dead roſe from their Graves and appeared in *Jeruſalem*, &c.

Q. When

Q. When had his Diſciples notice of it?

A. Soon after he was Riſen he appeared to them.

Q. Who did he firſt appear to?

A. The firſt who is mentioned in Holy Scripture, is *Mary Magdalen*, who gave notice of it to the Apoſtles. St. *John* c. 20.

Q. What did the Apoſtles do when they were acquainted of it?

A. Peter and *John* ran to the Sepulchre, where ſeeing the Linnen, *&c.* they believ'd.

Q. What did the other Apoſtles do when they heard this?

A. They did not believe till he Appeared to them that Evening, and they ſaw and touched him themſelves. St. *Luke* c. 24.

Q. Were all the Apoſtles together when he Appeared to them that Evening?

A. No, St. *Thomas* ſirnamed *Dydimus* was not there.

Q. What did he when they told him this?

A. He ſaid, *Except I ſee in his Hands the print of the Nails, and put my Finger into the print of the Nails, and thruſt my Hand into his Side, I will not believe.* St. John c. 20.

Q. Did our Saviour appear to them after this?

A. Yes, eight days after he appeared to them when St. *Thomas* was with them, and made him put his Hand into his Side.

Q. Did St. *Thomas* believe after this?

A. Yes, he cried out, *My Lord, and my God!*

Q. What did our Saviour ſay to St. *Thomas* upon this?

A. He ſaid to him, *Becauſe thou haſt ſeen me, Thomas, thou haſt believed: Bleſſed are the*

ey have not seen, and yet have believed.

Q. How long did our Saviour remain on Earth after his Resurrection?

A. Forty Days.

Q. What did he do in this time?

A. He appeared many times to his Apostles, and Instructed them, and Ordained many things.

Q. What did he Ordain?

A. He Ordained the Sacrament of Baptism to be given to all the World, saying, *Go ye therefore teach all Nations, Baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. St.* Mat. c. 28.

Q. What is the Sacrament of Baptism?

A. It is a Sacrament by which we are cleansed of Original Sin, and made Christians and Chi'dren of God.

Q. What did our Saviour do after he had remain'd here Forty days?

A. He ascended into Heaven.

Q. From whence did he Ascend?

A. From Mount *Olivet.*

Q. Where is he now?

A. He sits at the Right Hand of God.

Q. What does he there for us?

A. He offers up the Merits of his Passion and Death for our Salvation.

Q. Will he come from thence?

A. Yes, from thence he will come at the last Day, to Judge the Quick and the Dead.

Q. What did the Apostles do after our Saviour was Ascended?

A. They went back as he ordered them to *Jerusalem.*

Q. What did they there?

A. They

A. They remained in Prayer, expecting the Ho y Ghoſt.

CHAP. XXIII.

Of the Deſcent of the Holy Ghoſt, and the Converſion of the Jews *by S.* Peter.

Q. HOW long were the Apoſtles in Prayer before the Holy Ghoſt came down upon them?

A. Ten Days.

Q. When did the Holy Ghoſt come down upon them?

A. On *Whitſunday* or the Feaſt of *Pentecoſt*.

Q. What was the Feaſt of *Pentecoſt* with the *Jews*?

A. It was the Anniverſary of the Day when the Law was given.

Q. Why was it called *Pentecoſt*?

A. Becauſe it was the Fiftieth Day after their deliverance out of *Egypt*.

Q. What was the *Pentecoſt* a Figure of?

A. Of our *Pentecoſt* or *Whitſuntide*.

Q. What is our *Pentecoſt*?

A. It is a Feaſt which the Church Celebrates in Honour of the Holy Ghoſt, who came down upon the Apoſtles on this day.

Q. Why do we call it *Pentecoſt*?

A. Becauſe it is the fiftieth day after our Deliverance from Sin by our Saviour's Reſurrection.

Q. How did the Holy Ghoſt come upon the Apoſtles?

A. In Fiery Tongues.

Q. What

Q. What were the effects, of the Holy Ghoſt in the Apoſtles?

A. They were all filled with the Holy Ghoſt, they were Illuminated, and made able to underſtand the Scriptures; they were Inflamed with divine Love, and ſpoke different Tongues.

Q. Why did the Holy Ghoſt deſcend upon the Apoſtles in Fiery Tongues?

A. To ſignify that they were to Preach the Goſpel to All Nations.

Q. Why was the Holy Ghoſt ſent down upon the Apoſtles on the day of *Pentecoſt*?

A. That the new Law might be publiſhed the ſame day as the Old.

Q. What did the Apoſtles when they had received the Holy Ghoſt?

A. They began to ſpeak with divers Tongues, according as the Holy Ghoſt gave them to ſpeak; and to Preach that Jeſus was Chriſt, and had ſent the Holy Ghoſt.

Q. How many were Converted by the firſt Sermon;

A. Three thouſand. *Acts* 2.

CHAP. XXIV.

Of the Perſecution of the Apoſtles and Diſciples; Of the Converſion and Confirmation of the Samaritans; *Of the Calling of the* Gentiles, *&c.*

Q. WELL, what did the Jews do when they ſaw ſo many Converted?

A. They perſecuted the Apoſtles and Diſciples of Chriſt.

Q. How

Q. How did they perſecute them?

A. They caſt them into Priſon, Condemned them to be Scourg'd, *&c.*

Q. What did the Apoſtles when they had Suffered this?

A. They went from the Council Rejoycing, becauſe they were accounted Worthy to ſuffer Reproach for the Name of Jeſus. *Act.* 5.

Q. Did they preach again after this?

A. Yes.

Q. What did the *Jews* upon this?

A. They perſecuted them worſe than before.

Q. Did any ſuffer Martyrdom in this Perſecution?

A. Yes.

Q. Who was the firſt Martyr?

A S^t. *Stephen*, one of the Seven Deacons.

Q What did the Diſciples upon this?

A. All, but the Apoſtles, were diſperſed thro' *Judea* and *Samaria*. Act. 8.

Q. Did they preach there?

A. Yes.

Q. Which of the Diſciples preached there?

A. St. *Philip*, one of the ſeven Deacons.

Q. Did he Convert any there by preaching?

A. Yes, the People of *Samaria* received the Word of God, and were Baptized by St. *Philip*.

Q. What did the Apoſtles do when they heard this?

A They ſent St. *Peter* and S^t. *John* to them to Confirm them.

Q Did they not Preach alſo to the *Gentiles*?

A. Yes.

Q. Who was the firſt who went to the *Gentiles*?

A. St. *Peter*, *Act.* 10. *Q.* Who

Q. Who did he go to?

A. To *Cornelius* the *Centurion.*

Q. Who was *Cornelius?*

A. He was a *Roman* Captain in *Cæsarea Paleſtina*, a Man that Feared God, Prayed much, and did great Charities.

Q. How came St. *Peter* to go to *Cornelius?*

A. *Cornelius* ſent for him.

Q. How came *Cornelius* to ſend for him?

A. An Angel that appeared to him commanded him to ſend for him, ſaying, *Cornelius thy Prayers and thy Alms-Deeds are aſcended into Remembrance in the ſight of God, and now ſend Men unto* Joppe, *and call hither* Simon *that is ſirnamed* Peter, *he will tell thee what thou muſt do.*

Q. Had St. *Peter* any Revelation of this?

A. Yes, it was Revealed to him that Three Men were ſeeking him, and the Spirit bid him riſe and go with them.

Q. Was *Cornelius* Converted?

A. Yes, he and all his Family were Converted and Baptized by St. *Peter.*

Q. What did St. *Peter* underſtand when he ſaw this?

A. He underſtood that God had called the *Gentiles* to fill up the place of the incredulous *Jews.*

Q. Why did Almighty God call the *Gentiles?*

A. Out of his pure Mercy.

Q. Why did he caſt off the *Jews?*

A. For their Sins, and principally for their great Sin in Crucifying our Saviour.

Q. Who was ſent afterward Apoſtle to the *Gentiles?*

A. St. *Paul*, whom our Saviour called after his Aſcenſion.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXV.

Of the Apoſtles planting the Church after our Saviour's Aſcenſion: Of St. Peter's *Seat at* Antioch: *Of his Removal to* Rome; *and of his and St.* Paul's *Death there.*

Q. WHen did the Apoſtles diſperſe themſelves?

A. Some time after this.

Q. What did they do towards Planting the Church before they diſperſed?

A. They made the Creed.

Q. What is the Creed?

A. The Sum of our Belief.

Q. Why did they make it?

A. To be a Mark of the True Faith.

Q. Say the Creed?

A. *I believe in God the Father*, &c.

Q. What elſe did the Apoſtles do to propagate the Faith?

A. They Ordained a Biſhop with ſome Prieſts and Deacons in every City.

Q. Where was St. *Peter* firſt Biſhop of?

A. *Antioch.*

Q. Whither did he remove from thence?

A. To *Rome.*

Q. How long did St. *Peter* live there?

A. About five and twenty Years.

Q. When did he die?

A. He ſuffered Death under *Nero*, for Preaching the Faith of Chriſt.

Q. What

Q. What Death did he suffer?

A. He was Crucified with his Head downward.

Q. Did any other Apostle suffer there?

A. Yes, St. *Paul*.

Q. What Death did St. *Paul* suffer?

A. He was Beheaded.

Q. Who is the visible Head of the Church now?

A. The Successors of the Apostles, the Bishops and Priests.

Q. Who is the Invisible Head of the Church?

A. JESUS CHRIST.

CHAP. XXVI.

Of the Holy Scripture.

Q. HOW has the Word of God been delivered to the Church from the Beginning?

A. Two ways, *viz.* By word of Mouth and by Writing.

Q. How long was it delivered by Word of Mouth only?

A. From *Adam* to the Flood, and from the Flood to *Moses* and the *Prophets*.

Q. How was it delivered thus from the Beginning?

A. *Adam* and *Eve* delivered it to their Children, *Noah* delivered to his; the *Patriarchs* afterwards delivered it to theirs, and so on to *Moses* and the *Prophets*.

Q. How did *Moses* and the *Prophets* deliver it?

A. They

A. They delivered it partly by Word of Mouth, and partly by Writing.

Q. What have they delivered in Writing?

A. The Old Teſtament, or the Old Scripture.

Q. How has the Word of God been delivered to the Church, ſince *Moſes* and the *Prophets*?

A. By our Saviour Chriſt and his Apoſtles.

Q. How did our Bleſſed Saviour deliver it?

A. By Word of Mouth only.

Q. Did he write Nothing?

A. No, but the Apoſtles committed to Writing what he ſpoke.

Q. How did the Apoſtles deliver it?

A. Partly by Word of Mouth, partly by Writing.

Q. What have they delivered in Writing?

A. The New Teſtament, or New Scripture, which is ſufficient for Salvation.

Q. What is the Word of God called which is delivered by Word of God only?

A. Tradition.

Q. What is it called which is delivered in Writing?

A. The Holy Scripture.

Q. Are we obliged to believe Tradition as much as that which is delivered by Writing?

A. No.

Q. Why ſo?

A. Becauſe the Scripture is Penn'd by thoſe that were Inſpired; but Tradition is precarious.

Q. Has the Scripture of God been delivered Pure from the Beginning?

A. Yes.

Q. How has this been done?

A. By the Providence of God, which could not ſuffer his Truth to fail; as ſometimes liable to be corrupted by Pretenders.

Q. And are we ſure it never will be corrupted?

A. Yes.

Q. What reaſon have you for that?

A. 1*ſt*. I have this, becauſe the Infinite Juſtice of God is obliged to take as much Care of us now, as he has done for our Forefathers. 2*dly*, Becauſe our Saviour has promiſed that his Church ſhall not fail, and that he will be with it to the End of the World. *1 John* 16. 13.

CHAP. XXVII.

Of the Expiration of the Old Law, and the Deſtruction of the Temple and City of Jeruſalem.

Q. WHen did the Old Law Expire?

A. When the New Law was ſufficiently publiſhed.

Q. Was the Temple and City of Jeruſalem taken away alſo with it?

A. No.

Q. Why did theſe remain after the New Law was publiſh'd?

A. That the Church of the *Gentiles* might be built on the Foundation of the Church of the *Jews*.

Q. How long did the Temple and City remain after the New Law was publiſhed?

A. Till *Veſpaſian* the Emperor.

Q. Who deſtroyed them then?

A. *Titus*, by Order of *Veſpaſian* his Father.

Q. Why

Q. Why did he deſtroy the City and Temple?

A. Becauſe the *Jews* had Rebelled againſt him.

Q. Did many *Jews* periſh in it?

A. Yes, eleven thouſand Souls.

Q. How were ſo many deſtroyed?

A. Partly by the Enemy without, and partly by Famine within.

Q. Was the Famine great within?

A. Yes, inſomuch that Women eat their own Children.

Q. What elſe did they ſuffer?

A. The City and Temple were burnt to the Ground.

Q. What became of the *Jews* that were left?

A. They were made Slaves and Diſperſed over all the World, and continue ſo ſtill.

Q. Why was this City puniſhed thus?

A. Becauſe they had Crucified our Saviour, and Perſecuted his Church.

CHAP. XXVIII.

Of the Perſecution of the Church after the Deſtruction of Jeruſalem; *Of the Honours paid to the Martyrs*, &c.

Q. After the Temple and City of the *Jews* were deſtroyed, how did the Chriſtians live?

A. They ſuffered great Perſecution, inſomuch, that the Apoſtles and moſt of the Primitive Diſciples were Martyred.

Q. How long did theſe Perſecutions laſt?

A. Three hundred Years.

Q. Why were the Christians Persecuted thus; Were they offensive to the Publick, or the Government?

A. No, they did good to all.

Q. Why were they Persecuted then?

A. Because they Preached against the Idolatry and Vices of the Pagans.

Q. After what manner were the Christians Persecuted?

A. Their Goods were Confiscated, they were put to the Rack, torn with hot Irons, laid upon Grid-Irons, &c. and at last put to Death.

Q. What were they called that suffered Death?

A. Martyrs.

Q. What were they called who suffered, but out-lived their Torments?

A. Confessors.

Q. Why were they called Confessors?

A. Because they had confessed the Faith of Christ.

Q. What Honour did the Christians shew the Martyrs?

A. They met at their Tombs, and bless'd God for them that departed this Life with such Courage and Constancy: Beseeching him to give them Grace so to follow their good Example, that at last they might be Partakers of his heavenly Kingdom.

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CHAP. XXIX.

Of the Increaſe and Behaviour of the Chriſtians under their Perſecutions: Of Peace Reſtored to the Church: And of the Primitive Fathers.

Q. DID not the Number of Chriſtians decreaſe by theſe Perſecutions?

A. No, on the contrary it increaſed.

Q. How did the Chriſtians behave themſelves under theſe Perſecutions?

A. They behaved themſelves with Meekneſs, Humility and Patience, to the admiration of their Enemies.

Q. Did they never take Arms to defend themſelves?

A. No, never; their Religion forbid them to do this under any pretence whatſoever.

Q. By what means was Peace then reſtored to the Church?

A. *Conſtantine* the Great, the firſt Chriſtian Emperor, reſtored it.

Q. Who was *Conſtantine* the Great?

A. *Conſtantine* the Great was Son of the Emperor *Conſtantius Chlorus*; and the Empreſs *Helena*, a *Britiſh* Princeſs.

Q. What was the firſt occaſion of *Conſtantius*'s Converſion?

A. An Apparition of a Croſs, which he ſaw in the Air as he Marched to *Rome* againſt *Maxentius*, with this Inſcription under it, *In hoc vinces*,

vinces, In this thou shalt overcome. Euseb. in the Life of *Constantine*, 2d Book, c. 22.

Q. What did *Constantine* do upon his seeing this?

A. He took the Cross for his Standard and ordered it to be carried before the Army. *Euseb.* c. 25.

Q. What did he do when he had Conquered under it, and came to *Rome*?

A. He set up the Cross immediately in the *Forum* or Great *Market-Place*, and Established the Christian Religion. *Euseb.* c 33.

Q. How did the Christians use this Liberty?

A. In the beginning they made good use of it, and served God zealously, building Churches, and Nurseries for Piety and Learning; which Zeal God of his infinite Goodness restore again into the Minds of Men; and that All may strive to Serve him in the Beauty of Holiness, as well as in Spirit and Truth. *Amen.*

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